

High Heliographic latitude Tangential Discontinuities: Ulysses Observations

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Previous studies of Tangential Discontinuities (TDs) are all based on data taken in the ecliptic plane or at low helio-latitudes. Preliminary data from Ulysses show that a significant number of TDs exist at high latitudes. These TDs may generally be divided into two categories based on their field directional changes across the discontinuities. There is a distinct population of TDs with large magnitude changes ($\Delta|B|/B > 0.2$) but small directional changes ($< 300^\circ$). About 20% of all the high-latitude TDs are in this category. We will use the instability criteria to further determine whether these mirror mode-like events are "fossils" which have been generated close to the sun and are convected to the spacecraft or are still being created. For the other 80% of TDs, which are associated with large directional changes, we will find their orientation and intensity through a field model. Speculation on the role that they play at high latitudes will be made. Finally, generation mechanisms for these TD structures will be explored.

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